

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

### **LISTING OF THE CLAIMS**

1. *(currently amended)* A rucksack buckle comprising:

a main body, said main body including a first connection means including ~~at least one~~ two bars integrally formed with the main body of the buckle, and defining ~~at least one~~ two elongate slots therein adapted for receiving a length of webbing or the like[;], and further including a grip portion comprising a substantially planar extension integrally formed with the main body of the buckle; and

a securing portion, said securing portion including a second connection means including a first arm integrally formed with the main body of the buckle, wherein said first arm has proximal and distal ends, said proximal end being attached to the main body of the buckle and said first arm extending from the main body of the buckle in a first direction and defining a first aperture therewith, and said first aperture having a first opening at one end, facing in said first direction, ~~through which a captive loop of webbing may be guided into said first aperture;~~ wherein said first opening is a first web passageway, said first web passageway extending between said main body of the buckle and said distal end of said first arm and being adapted to guide a captive loop of webbing into said first aperture, and said first web passageway is significantly narrower than said first aperture, and is inclined at an angle to the longitudinal axis of the buckle, wherein the longitudinal axis of the buckle is substantially perpendicular to both the first direction and the second direction; and

wherein a second arm is integrally formed with the main body of the buckle, wherein said second arm extends from said first arm in a second direction, substantially opposite to said first direction, and defines a second aperture therewith, wherein said second aperture has

an opening at one end, facing in said second direction, adapted to receive said captive loop of webbing.

2. *(canceled)*

3. *(original)* The buckle of Claim 1, wherein the second arm is turned through approximately 180° relative to the first arm and faces in a direction opposite to that of the first arm, and is in spaced apart parallel relationship to the first arm to define the second aperture.

4. *(original)* The buckle of Claim 3, wherein the second arm has a free distal end which defines with the first arm an open web passageway leading in to the aperture.

5. *(canceled)*

6. *(canceled)*

7. *(currently amended)* The buckle of Claim ~~[[6]]~~ 1, wherein one of said elongate slots is bent at an angle at its center point, so as to form a substantially flattened v-shape. ~~to the horizontal.~~

8. *(currently amended)* The buckle of Claim 1, wherein ~~the plane of~~ the buckle is bent ~~out of the horizontal~~ along a transverse bend line substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the buckle at an acute angle.